

# Village of Los Lunas



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## Village Budget Continues To Grow; Provides Services to Many

Just as the village continues to grow in population, the budget for the Village of Los Lunas also grows. The budget continues to include items which help create a community for residents who can enjoy various amenities as well as having the infrastructure to provide needed services.

The estimated revenues grand total is \$37 million while the estimated expenditures grand total is \$40.5 million for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. These grand totals include the general fund, special revenue funds (i.e., recreation and infrastructure), enterprise funds (water and sewer), trust and agency funds (public housing authority and central solid waste authority), and capital project funds (transportation building project).

The budget provides for a wide variety of services with 148 full time and two part time employees. The figures in this story are estimated as of June, 2006, and may change over the year as revenues and expenses change.

The village's 2006-2007 general fund revenues are estimated at \$19 million which is a 28 percent increase over 2005-2006's almost \$15 million. Property tax revenues are up 19.6 percent to \$5.2 million. Gross receipt tax receipts are anticipated to be up 29 percent to \$4.8 million from 2005-2006's \$3.7 million.

Other sources of general fund revenues include park fees, building permits, summer recreation fees, legislative appropriations, franchise fees and subdivision fees.

General fund expenditures include:

- Administration, \$3.4 million.
- Judicial, \$258,087.
- Police, \$3.2 million.
- Fire, \$1.3 million.
- Street, \$7.4 million which includes \$3.9 million for extending the roads and infrastructure in Los Morros Industrial Park and \$1.8 million for improvements to intersections with Main Street (also known as NM Highway 6).

- Parks, \$2.2 million including \$822,000 for park improvements.

Other departments in the General Fund include the Library, Community Development, Vehicle Maintenance, and Community Service/D. W. I. Grant Funds.

There are several other funds in addition to the village's General Funds. These include:

- Infrastructure which includes \$2 million for miscellaneous road improvements and \$377,000 for a transportation study in expenditures.

- Revenue funds include bond funds, Gross Receipts Tax revenue bond, fire fund, recreation fund, municipal street improvement fund, Lodgers Tax Fund, Law Enforcement Protection fund, and Emergency Medical Service Fund. Several of these funds have expenditures which are equal to the revenue.

The Village Water and Sewer Fund has \$8.7 million in expenditures which includes capital outlay expenses of \$2.3 million for a south interceptor, \$1.9 million for

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### Rail Runner Express Visits

**The New Mexico Rail Runner Express visited Los Lunas in June allowing the public to see the progress on the new station at Juan Perea and Courthouse Roads as well as tour the train which is expected to begin service between Belen and Albuquerque in late summer 2006. For more information about the train and its schedule visit [www.nmrailrunner.com](http://www.nmrailrunner.com).**

# Schools Participate in Art Can Contest

The village's Keep Los Lunas Clean & Beautiful Program and Parks & Recreation Department, in partnership with Los Lunas Schools, conducted the Art Can Contest for the second year in May at Daniel Fernandez Park.

The project was coordinated by Marie Marquez and Josie Navarrette of the Keep Los Lunas Clean and Beautiful Program and Ray John Aragon, Art Specialist for Los Lunas schools.

Eleven schools participated: Daniel Fernandez, Desert View and Raymond Gabaldon Intermediates, and Ann Parish, Bosque Farms, Katherine Gallegos, Los Lunas, Mariposa, Peralta, Tomé and Valencia Elementaries.

Seven people judged the contest: David Coker, University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus; Andy Gomez, First Community Bank; Mary Richardson, local art teacher; Laura Burr, Los Lunas schools; Jo Davies, Janice Van Havermatt, and Sister Francis Penwell.

The contest was judged on the following categories: slogan, visual appearance, creativity, use of space, originality, color scheme and overall impression of art project. Each can had to display a slogan/theme related to litter prevention.

The primary goal of the Art Can Contest is to send the message to place litter in its proper place. All the schools worked hard and did a great job in such a short period, pointed out Marie Marquez.

Certificates were presented to all schools and trophies were awarded to the Art Can winners at the Annual School Art Festival held May 9 at the Los Lunas Schools Administration Office Courtyard.

Winners are:

First Place – Daniel Fernandez Intermediate with the theme “Don’t Monkey Around With Our World.”

## Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the council chambers in the Administrative Building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for 2006 are:

July 20 August 3 & 17

September 7 & 21 October 5 & 19

November 2 & 16 December 14 & 28

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board in the lobby of the Administrative Building, at 660 Main Street NW, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street NE; and posted on the village website (address: [www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)).



**Laura Burr of Los Lunas Schools inspects the Art Cans during the judging at Daniel Fernandez Park.**

Second Place – LL Elementary, “Lending a Hand to Keep America Clean.”

Third Place – Peralta, “Families Coming Together for a Cleaner Community.”

The most creative Art Can was Tomé Elementary’s which contained many pictures of individuals picking up trash.

The Art Cans will be used at all public events held at the parks and other locations in the Community.

Marie Marquez and Josie Navarrette thank all those who participated and also Starbucks for donating drinks and snacks for judges and others.

## BUDGET . . Continued from front page

Tank #7 and \$400,000 for water rights acquisition.

Anticipated expenditures for the Solid Waste Fund are \$1.8 million including \$300,000 for expansion of the transfer station on NM Highway 6.

The Transportation Program has proposed expenditures of \$398,521 and the Housing Authority expenditures of \$1.6 million which included housing assistance payments.

**VISIT THE  
VILLAGE WEBSITE  
[www.loslunasnm.gov](http://www.loslunasnm.gov)**

### VILLAGE OFFICIALS

*Louis F. Huning* **Mayor**  
**Councilors**

*Cecilia CC Castillo* *Charles Griego*  
*Gerard Saiz* *Robert Vialpando*

**Municipal Judge** Jeff Aragon  
**Village Administrator**

Phillip Jaramillo Master Municipal Clerk  
**Chief of Police** Nick Balido

# The Village and Arsenic

The Village of Los Lunas annual water report, released in June, explained there is a minimum amount of arsenic in the village's water.

The amount reported is a not a violation of the standards for water systems.

Village Public Utilities Director Betty Behrend explains that the village is working diligently toward being compliant with the arsenic standard which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized on Oct. 31, 2001. The village has obtained an extension until 2009 to comply with the arsenic standard.

That standard lowered the maximum concentration level (MCL) of arsenic from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb.

Because arsenic occurs naturally in the environment and as a by-product of some agricultural and industrial activities, it can enter drinking water through the ground or as runoff into surface water sources.

Naturally-occurring arsenic is associated with aquifers that contain rocks from volcanic sources.

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table which is odorless and tasteless.

Behrend points out that one of the indicators of too much arsenic is bladder cancer and New Mexico has one of the lowest rates of bladder cancer in the United States.

There are many other water quality parameters, said Behrend, and the village is in compliance with most all those parameters.

## Keep Your Property Clean of Weeds, Waste

After months of little or no moisture, the Middle Rio Grande Valley received several inches of rain in July. Although it may not have totally relieved the drought situation, the rain has resulted in a bumper crop of weeds.

Village Zoning Enforcement Officer Josie Navarette reminds everyone that village ordinances say "It is unlawful for any persons to permit or cause to remain in or about the premises any solid waste, weeds, motor vehicles not in operating condition, waste water or any conglomeration of residue thereof . . .":

In addition, "it is unlawful for any person to permit in or about the premises weeds, briars, brush or any other solid waste to become in any way hazardous or injurious to public health or obstruct pedestrian and vehicular traffic."

So be sure to take care of those weeds and other items on your property.

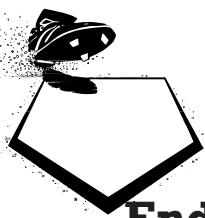
And when you do take care of cleaning your yard remember that in the village it is unlawful for any person to sweep, place, or throw solid waste or other waste materials (and this includes any type of weed) in or upon any sidewalk, street, alley or unoccupied premises.

## GARBAGE PICKUP DAYS



The village remaining 2006 garbage pickup days are:

HOLIDAY OBSERVED	REGULAR TRASH PICKUP DAY	WILL BE PICKED UP ON
Labor Day	Monday Sept. 4	Friday Sept. 1
Columbus Day	Monday Oct. 9	Friday Oct. 6
Veterans Day	Friday, Nov. 10	Thursday Nov. 9
Thanksgiving Day after	Thursday Nov. 23	Wednesday Nov. 22
Thanksgiving	Friday Nov. 24	Monday Nov. 27
Christmas		
Holiday	Monday Dec. 25	Friday Dec. 22
New Year's	Monday Jan. 1 (2007)	Friday Dec. 29



## Village of Los Lunas Co-Ed Softball 16 Regular Season Games



**End of the Year Double Elimination Tournament**  
**Day Games Play Monday-Thursday**  
**For Information Call Joshua Kerns, Sports Specialist**  
**Village Parks and Recreation 865-5080**



## Village to Have Up-To-Date Water Meter Reading System

The village's water meter reading system is about to undergo an overhaul which will result in giving the village's six water and sewer employees time for other duties including maintenance and customer service.

The 2006-2007 budget had \$641,000 set aside to update the nearly 4,400 meters in the village. Each will be outfitted with a radio-type device that will transmit readings directly to a computer system. The change will take about a year with no price increase for the changeover to the customers.

The new system, called a fixed-base system, is more efficient. Now three staff member spend three days a month reading meters. This will no longer be necessary.

Greg Wortman, water and sewer department supervisor, expects the men will be able to do additional maintenance without having to read the meters.

The village will be the first municipality in New

Mexico to go to this system.

The water meter reading system the village uses now is still considered fairly new although the village began using it in the early 1990s.

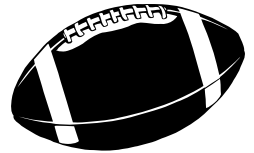
The current system is a "touch-read" approach which requires meter readers to point a wand at the meter to get the billing information.

Once the new system is in place customers will be able to set up online accounts to track their water usage. Customers without computer access will be able to call the water department to get an up-to-date reading. The radios placed inside each meter are designed to send readings several times daily.

Public Utilities Director Betty Behrend has said the new system will not result in higher water bills since the village budgeted for the improvements. The system will be installed in new housing developments by the developers, contractors or builders.

*Village of Los Lunas*

# FLAG FOOTBALL



*\$450 Per Team*

*Now Taking Registrations*

*Call The Parks and Recreation Dept. 352-3584*

School Is Back In Session!

Keep Our Children Safe!

### 15 Miles Per Hour In School Zones

Drivers need to use caution when traveling on roads if school zone lights are flashing. These flashing lights mean drivers need to take extra precautions and follow additional traffic rules.

Flashing lights mean drivers must slow to 15 miles per hour. The purpose of this speed limit is to protect pedestrians and drivers in the increased traffic which occurs during the school year.

In an active school zone, during enforcement hours of the 15 m.p.h. speed limit, passing is prohibited. Even if a vehicle is moving at a slow speed, a second vehicle may not move ahead of the slower vehicle, even if they remain in their own lane while doing so.

